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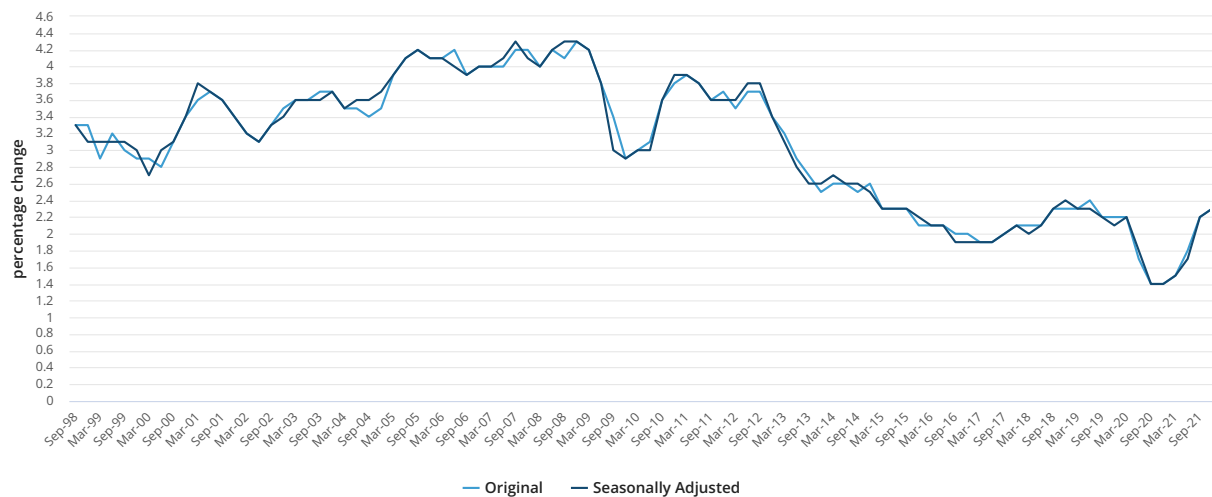
Media Release

Released 23/02/2022

Source: [Wage Price Index, Australia, December 2021](#)

The seasonally adjusted Wage Price Index (WPI) rose 0.7 per cent in December quarter 2021, with an annual growth rate of 2.3 per cent, according to data released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Annual wage growth - 1998 to 2021



Michelle Marquardt, Head of Prices Statistics at the ABS, said this quarter saw the rate of annual wage growth continue to rise from the low of 1.4 per cent in the latter part of 2020, to 2.3 per cent in the December quarter 2021.

“The proportion of pay rises reported over the December quarter was higher than usually seen at this time of year. The implementation of the last phases of award updates and state-based public sector enterprise agreements, on top of a rising number of wage and salary reviews, drove wages up 0.7 per cent over the quarter.

“Wage pressure continued to build over the December quarter for jobs with specific skills. Private sector wage growth occurred across a broad range of industries as businesses looked to retain experienced staff and attract new staff. Private sector wages rose 2.4 per cent annually, maintaining the rate of growth recorded in September quarter 2021.”

For the second consecutive quarter public sector wages recorded an increasing rate of annual growth to be 2.1 per cent, after a series low of 1.3 per cent in June quarter 2021.

In original terms, the rate of quarterly wage growth differed across industries in December quarter 2021. Quarterly wage growth ranged from 0.3 per cent for the Education and training industry to 1.2 per cent for the Retail trade industry.

Across the country, Queensland recorded the highest quarterly rate of wage growth (0.8 per cent), while Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and the Northern Territory all recorded the slowest rates of growth (0.5 per cent). Tasmania recorded the highest rate (3.0 per cent) of annual wage growth and Western Australia the lowest (2.0 per cent).

The ABS would like to thank businesses for continued support in responding to our surveys during these challenging times.

While not affecting the hourly earnings measured in the WPI, changes recorded in employment levels and hours worked within the labour market can influence average earnings. These changes will be reflected in Average Weekly Earnings released tomorrow, Thursday 24 February 2022.

Further information is available in Wage Price Index, Australia available for free download from the [ABS website \(/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/wage-price-index-australia/dec-2021\)](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/wage-price-index-australia/dec-2021).

Media notes

- When reporting ABS data you must attribute the Australian Bureau of Statistics (or the ABS) as the source.
- The Wage Price Index publishes estimates of the change in hourly rates of pay, unaffected by compositional shifts in the labour force, hours worked, or employee characteristics.
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